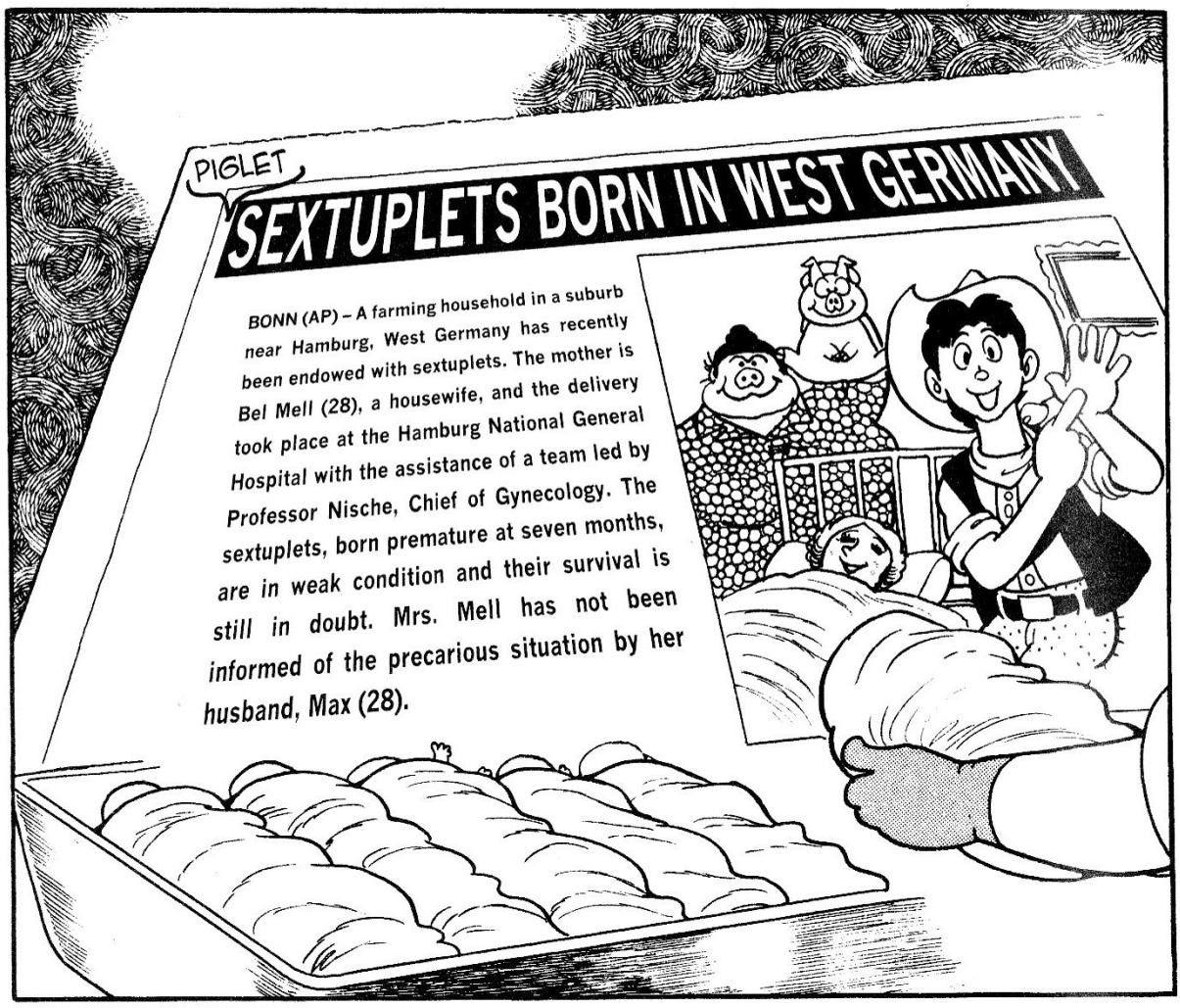
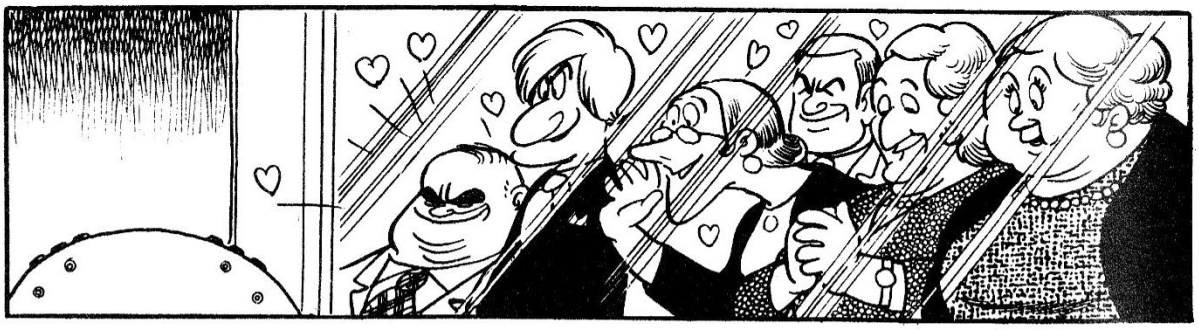
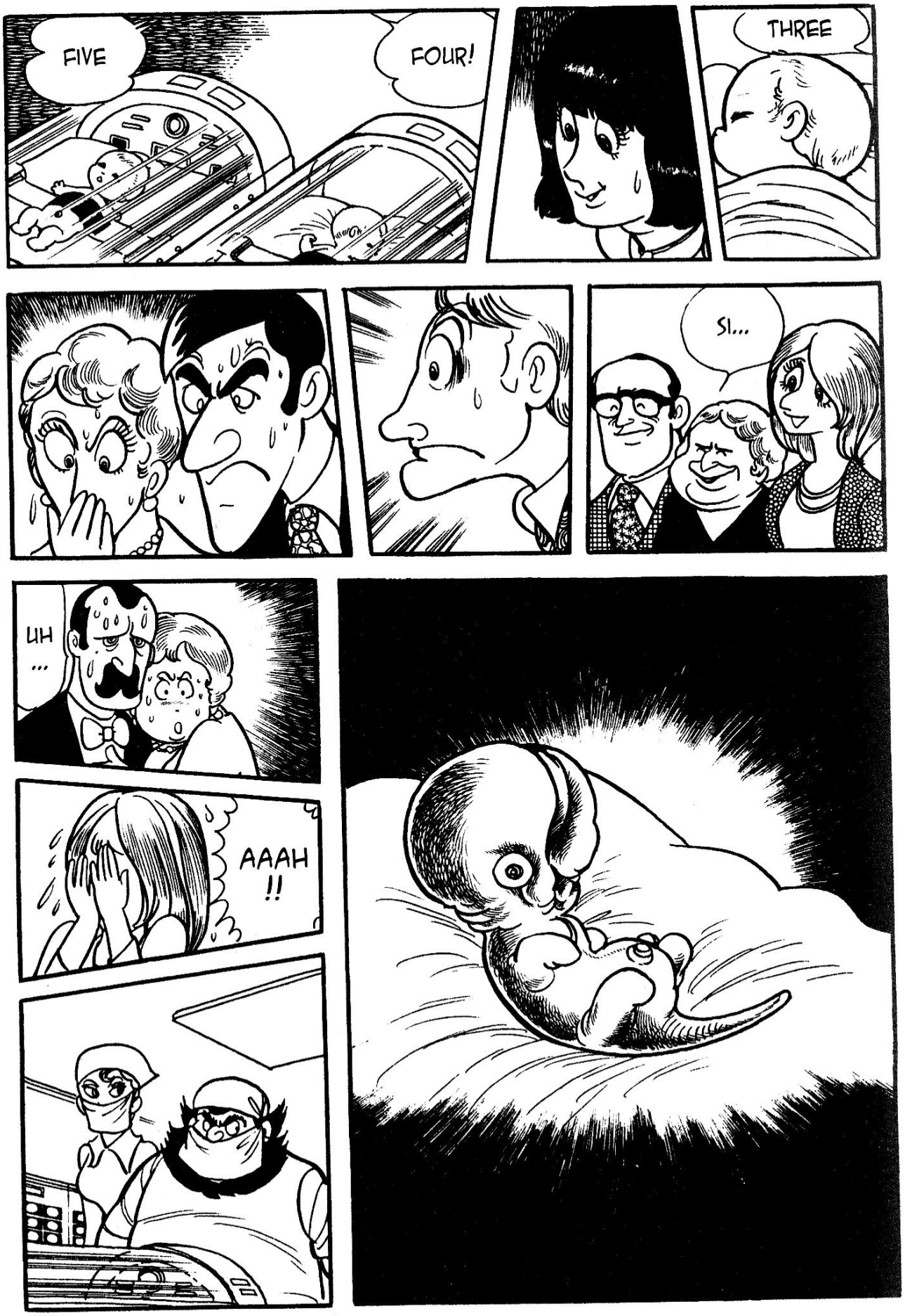
THE ONE THAT REMAINS

THE OTHERWISE DEFINITIVE JAPANESE EDITION of *Black Jack* on which this translation is based excludes a number of stories for various reasons, one being concern over excessive morbidity. "The One That Remains," which appeared in the June 21, 1976 issue of the weekly *Champion* magazine where *Black Jack* was originally serialized, is one of the excluded episodes. It has been appended especially to this Hardcover Edition courtesy of Tezuka Productions. The episode features Black Jack's rival Kiriko, who will make his debut in our series proper's third volume, in a story previewed at the end of this book.


PIGLET
SEXTUPLETS BORN IN WEST GERMANY
BONN (AP) – A farming household in a suburb near Hamburg, West Germany has recently been endowed with sextuplets. The mother is Bel Mell (28), a housewife, and the delivery took place at the Hamburg National General Hospital with the assistance of a team led by Professor Nische, Chief of Gynecology. The sextuplets, born premature at seven months, are in weak condition and their survival is still in doubt. Mrs. Mell has not been informed of the precarious situation by her husband, Max (28).

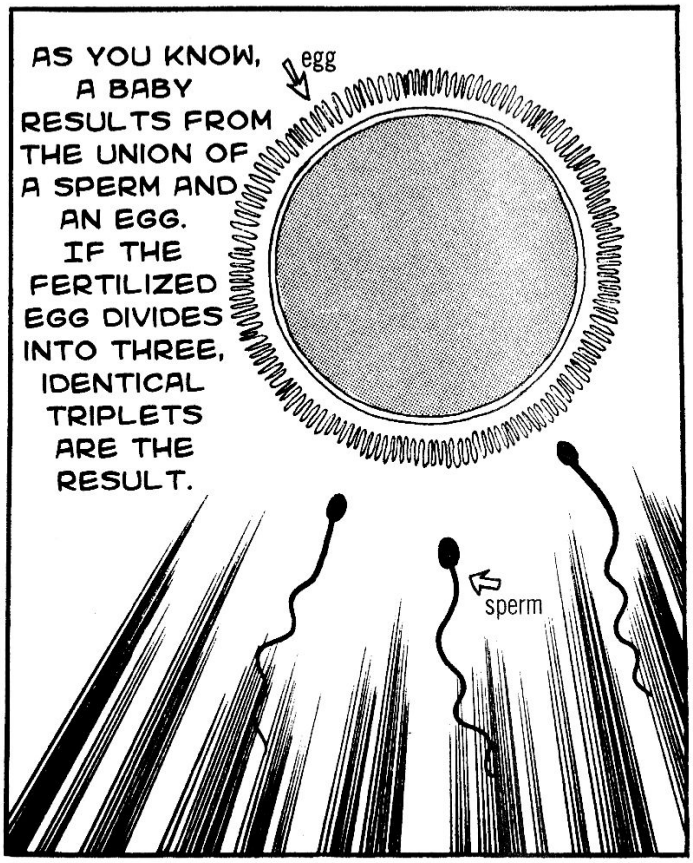


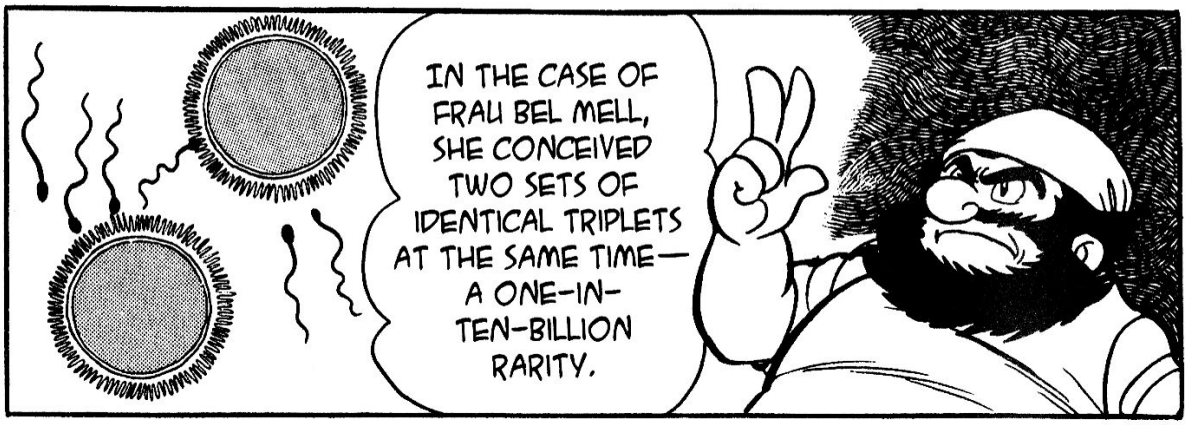
TWO
ONE


FIVE
FOUR!
THREE
SI...
UH ...
AAAH !!

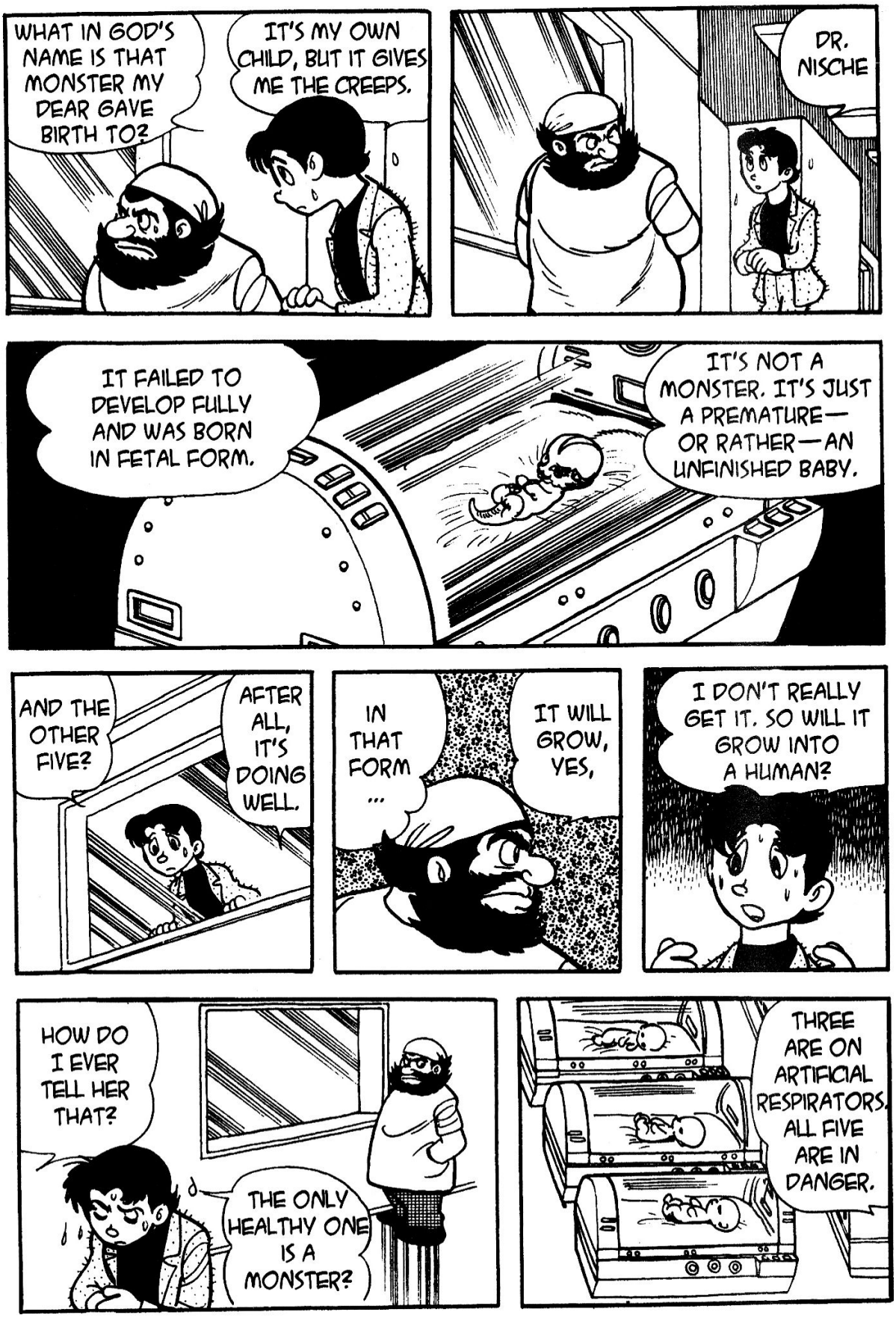
GENTLEMEN, REGARDING THE SEXTUPLETS FRAU BEL MELL HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO: IT IS AN EXTREMELY RARE CASE.

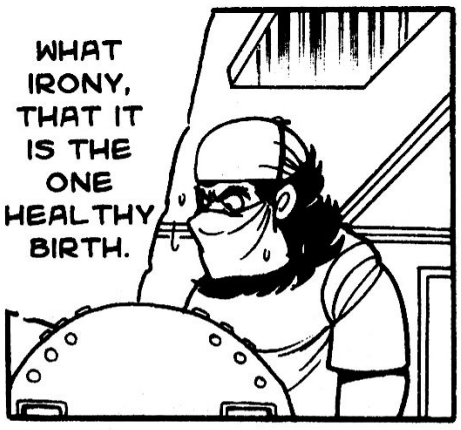
ARISING FROM JUST ONE EGG, SUCH BABIES TEND TO BE PREMATURE, SMALL AND WEAK.


AS YOU KNOW, A BABY RESULTS FROM THE UNION OF A SPERM AND AN EGG. IF THE FERTILIZED EGG DIVIDES INTO THREE, IDENTICAL TRIPLETS ARE THE RESULT.
egg
sperm

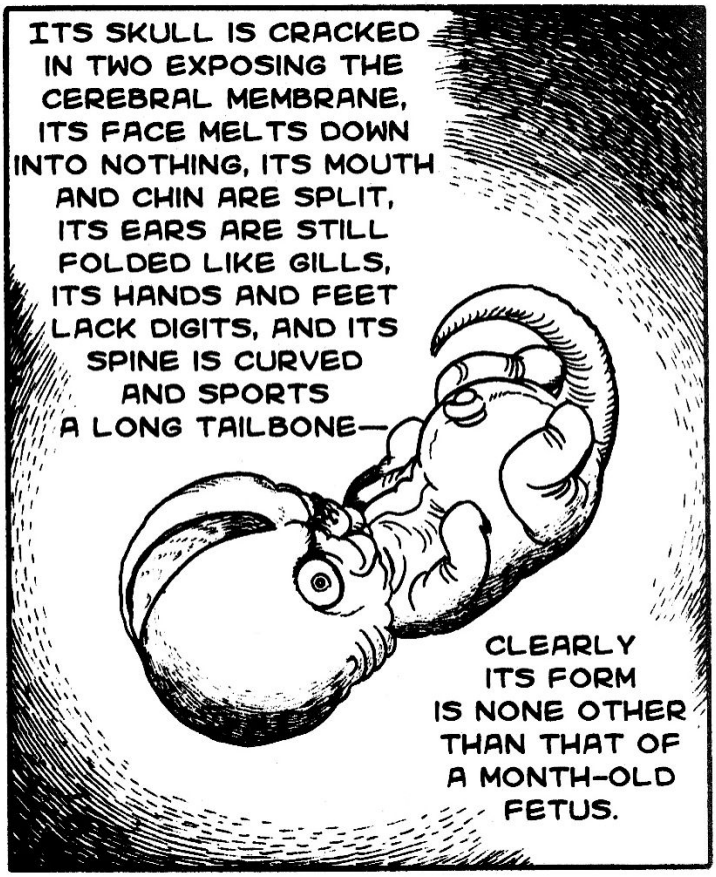

IN THE CASE OF FRAU BEL MELL, SHE CONCEIVED TWO SETS OF IDENTICAL TRIPLETS AT THE SAME TIME— A ONE-IN-TEN-BILLION RARITY.

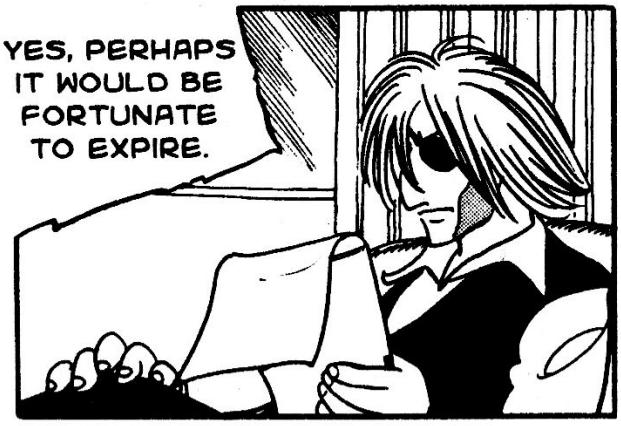
THE NEXT TEN DAYS WILL BE CRITICAL. THEY'RE WEAK, AND THEIR BREATHING UNSURE. EXCEPT FOR ONE.
SADLY, NOT TOO WELL.
AND HOW ARE THE SIX DOING?
WELL, THE ONE THAT CAME LAST. IT IS THE MOST PREMATURE... AND YET THE ONLY HEALTHY ONE.
I SAY, BETTER THAN ZERO. WHICH ONE ?
ONE ?
IT'S TOO EARLY FOR THAT.
I REFUSE.
TSK
MISER
YES, THE PUBLIC WON'T BE SATED WITHOUT PHOTOS.
CAN WE TAKE A PHOTO OF THAT BABY?
THE ONLY HEALTHY ONE...

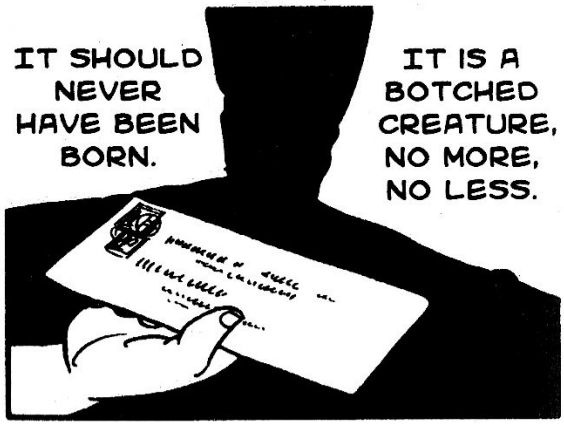

WHAT IN GOD'S NAME IS THAT MONSTER MY DEAR GAVE BIRTH TO?
IT'S MY OWN CHILD, BUT IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS.
DR. NISCHE
IT FAILED TO DEVELOP FULLY AND WAS BORN IN FETAL FORM.
IT'S NOT A MONSTER. IT'S JUST A PREMATURE— OR RATHER—AN UNFINISHED BABY.
AND THE OTHER FIVE?
AFTER ALL, IT'S DOING WELL.
IN THAT FORM ...
IT WILL GROW, YES,
I DON'T REALLY GET IT. SO WILL IT GROW INTO A HUMAN?
HOW DO I EVER TELL HER THAT?
THE ONLY HEALTHY ONE IS A MONSTER?
THREE ARE ON ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATORS. ALL FIVE ARE IN DANGER.

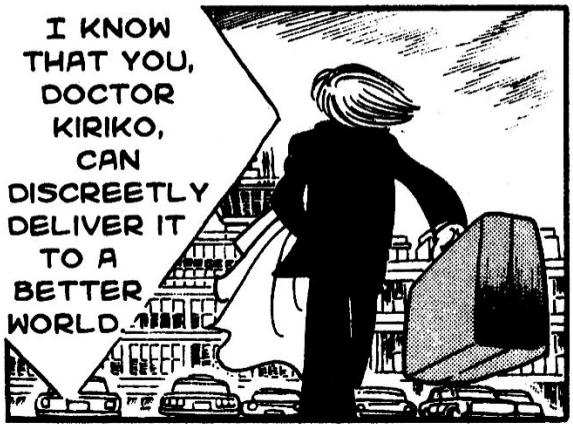

WHAT IRONY, THAT IT IS THE ONE HEALTHY BIRTH.

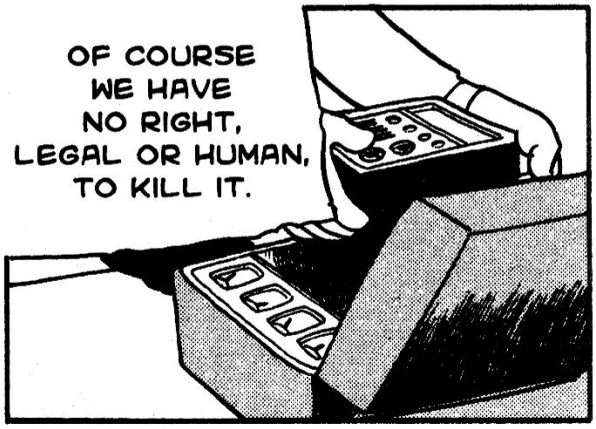
EVEN IF IT DID GROW, WHO WOULD SEE IT AS HUMAN?


ITS SKULL IS CRACKED IN TWO EXPOSING THE CEREBRAL MEMBRANE, ITS FACE MELTS DOWN INTO NOTHING, ITS MOUTH AND CHIN ARE SPLIT, ITS EARS ARE STILL FOLDED LIKE GILLS, ITS HANDS AND FEET LACK DIGITS, AND ITS SPINE IS CURVED AND SPORTS A LONG TAILBONE—
CLEARLY ITS FORM IS NONE OTHER THAN THAT OF A MONTH-OLD FETUS.


YES, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE FORTUNATE TO EXPIRE.

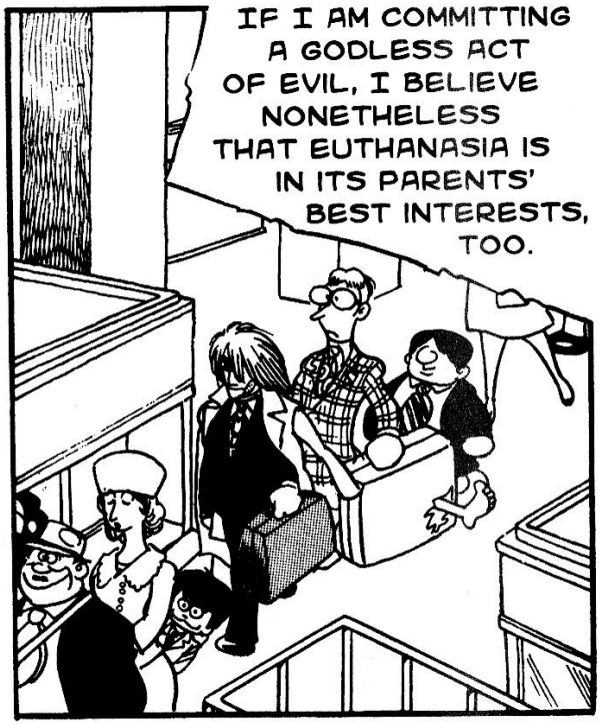

IT SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN BORN.
IT IS A BOTCHED CREATURE, NO MORE, NO LESS.


I KNOW THAT YOU, DOCTOR KIRIKO, CAN DISCREETLY DELIVER IT TO A BETTER WORLD.


OF COURSE WE HAVE NO RIGHT, LEGAL OR HUMAN, TO KILL IT.

PLEASE, DOCTOR KIRIKO, MAKE HASTE! COME TO HAMBURG!

WHHHH

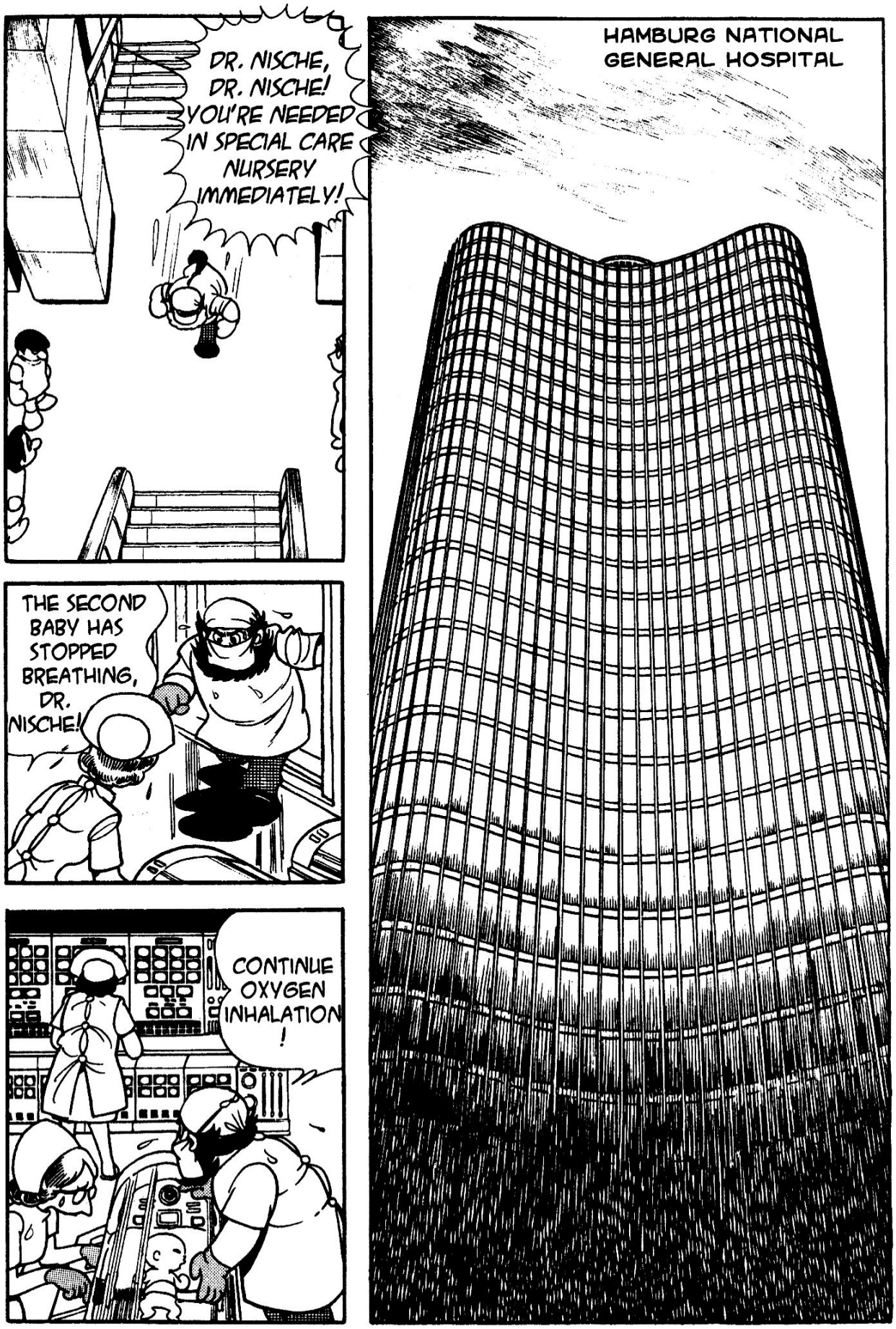

IF I AM COMMITTING A GODLESS ACT OF EVIL, I BELIEVE NONETHELESS THAT EUTHANASIA IS IN ITS PARENTS' BEST INTERESTS, TOO.

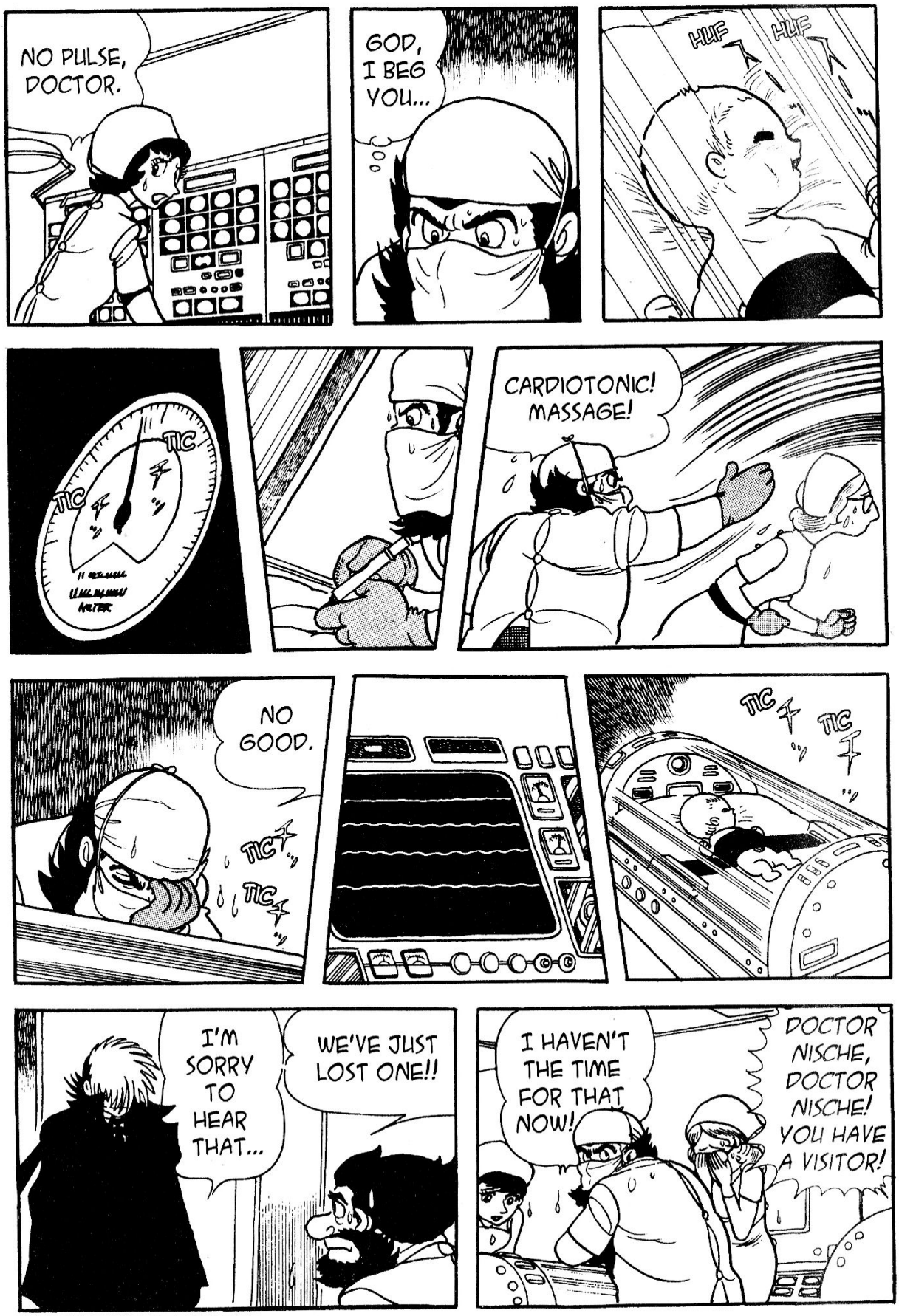
WHHHH

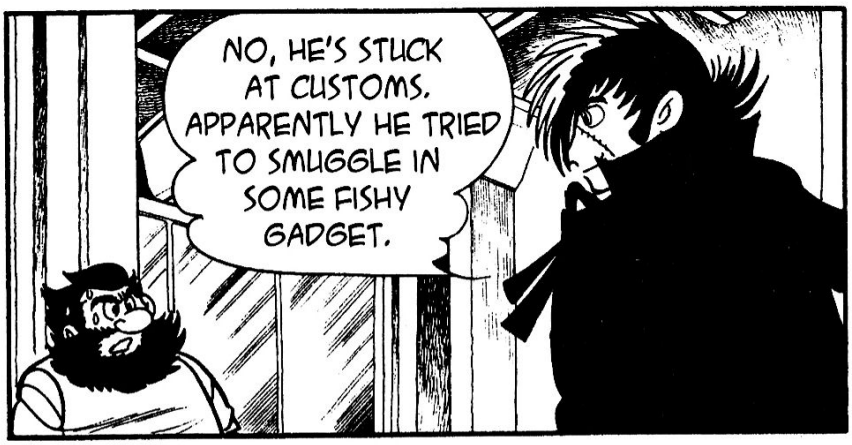
THIS GERMAN AIRLINES FLIGHT IS HEADED FOR HAMBURG VIA BONN. THERE'S A NATIONAL HOSPITAL IN HAMBURG.
I BET THAT'S IT, HUH?

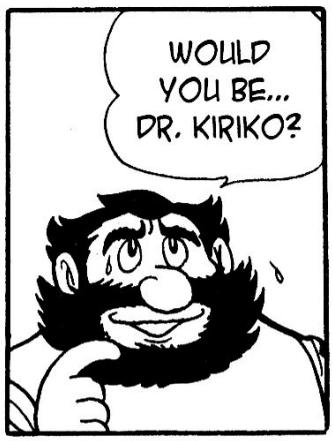
NIPPING AT MY HEEL WHEREVER I GO.
I'M TIRED OF YOU

HELPING OUT WITH MURDER AGAIN, KIRIKO?
WHERE TO?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.


DR. NISCHE, DR. NISCHE! YOU'RE NEEDED IN SPECIAL CARE NURSERY IMMEDIATELY!
THE SECOND BABY HAS STOPPED BREATHING, DR. NISCHE!
CONTINUE OXYGEN INHALATION!
HAMBURG NATIONAL GENERAL HOSPITAL


NO PULSE, DOCTOR.
GOD, I BEG YOU...
HUF
HUF
TIC
TIC
CARDIOTONIC! MASSAGE!
NO GOOD.
TIC
TIC
TIC
TIC
I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT...
WE'VE JUST LOST ONE!!
I HAVEN'T THE TIME FOR THAT NOW!
DOCTOR NISCHE, DOCTOR NISCHE! YOU HAVE A VISITOR!

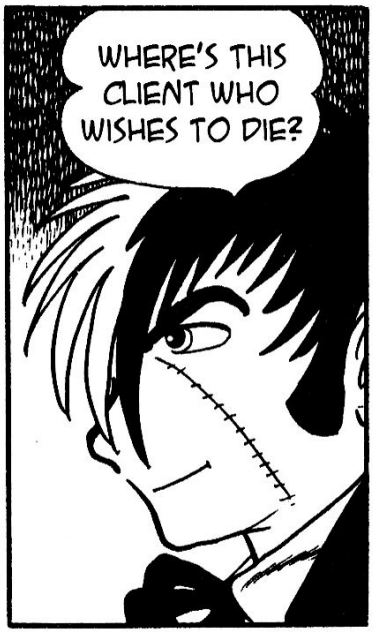

NO, HE'S STUCK AT CUSTOMS. APPARENTLY HE TRIED TO SMUGGLE IN SOME FISHY GADGET.


WOULD YOU BE... DR. KIRIKO?

NO WAY THEY'D GUESS IT'S ACTUALLY FOR EUTHANASIA! HA HA HA...
THEY MUST THINK HE'S A RADICAL WITH A BOMB.

WHO ARE YOU?!

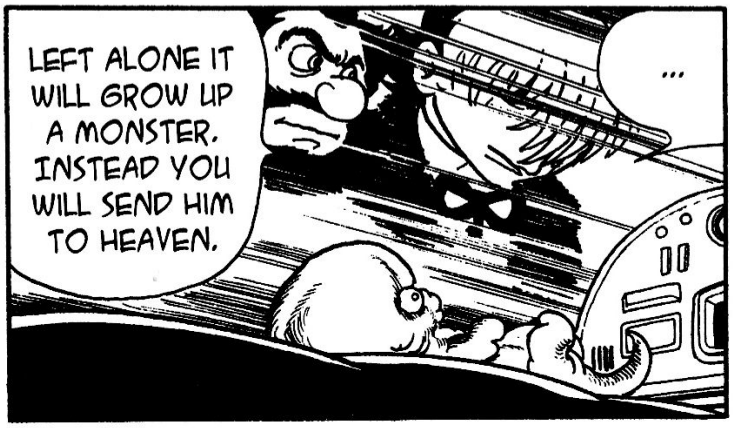
AND SO I'M HERE IN LIEU OF THE GOOD SIR.
IN FACT, I WAS THE ONE WHO TIPPED THEM OFF ABOUT IT.

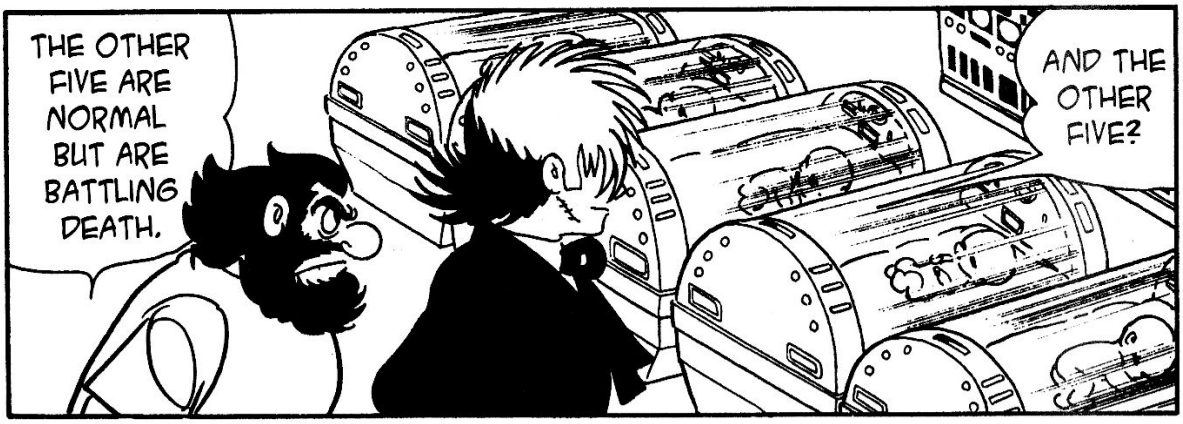

WHERE'S THIS CLIENT WHO WISHES TO DIE?

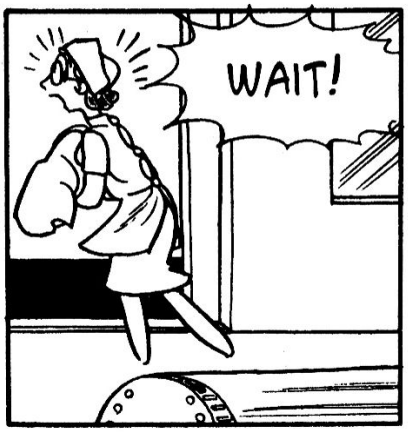
OKAY THEN...

SAME ILK AS KIRIKO, HA HA.
I'M A DOCTOR. CALL ME BLACK JACK.

THIS IS THE ONE.


LEFT ALONE IT WILL GROW UP A MONSTER. INSTEAD YOU WILL SEND HIM TO HEAVEN.
...

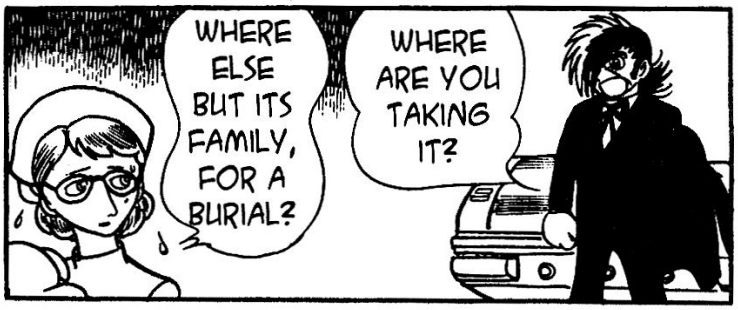

THE OTHER FIVE ARE NORMAL BUT ARE BATTLING DEATH.
AND THE OTHER FIVE?

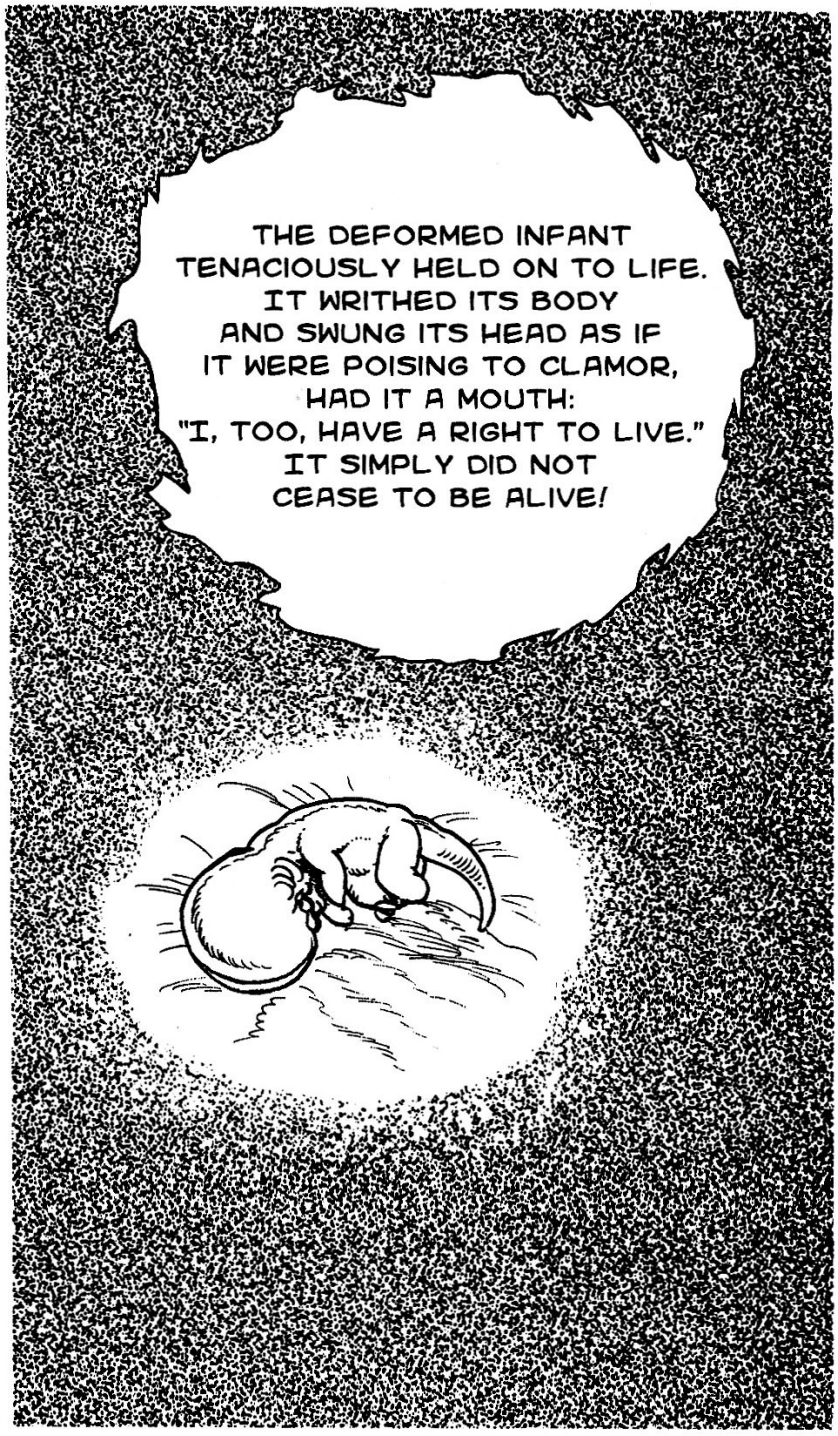

WAIT!

ONE DIED JUST NOW.

MAKE THAT FOUR.

GIVE THAT CORPSE TO ME!

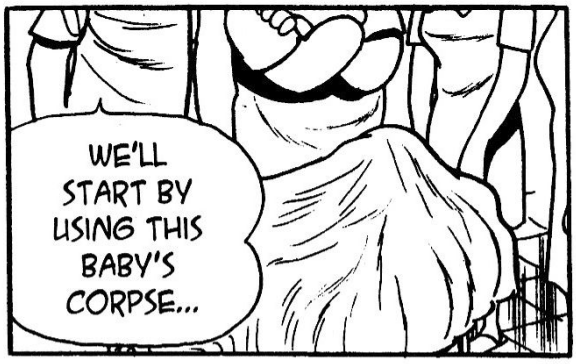

WHERE ELSE BUT ITS FAMILY, FOR A BURIAL?
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING IT?

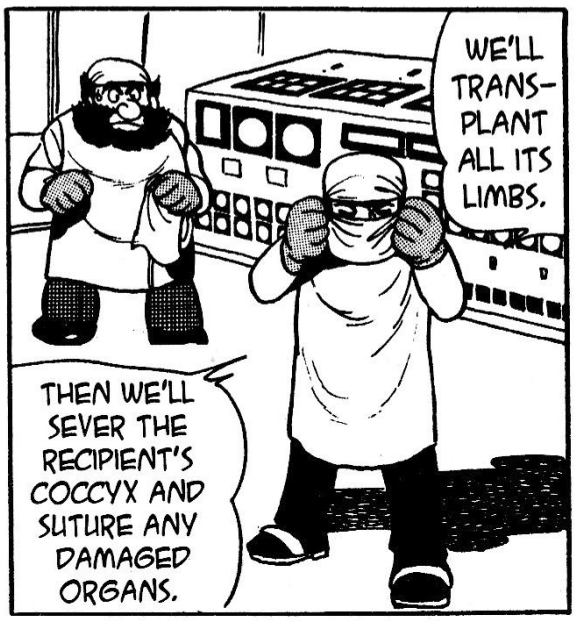

THE DEFORMED INFANT TENACIOUSLY HELD ON TO LIFE. IT WRITHED ITS BODY AND SWUNG ITS HEAD AS IF IT WERE POISING TO CLAMOR, HAD IT A MOUTH: "I, TOO, HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE." IT SIMPLY DID NOT CEASE TO BE ALIVE!

WHA-

I WANT SOME OF ITS PARTS. YES, I WANT IT FOR THIS DEFOR-MITY.

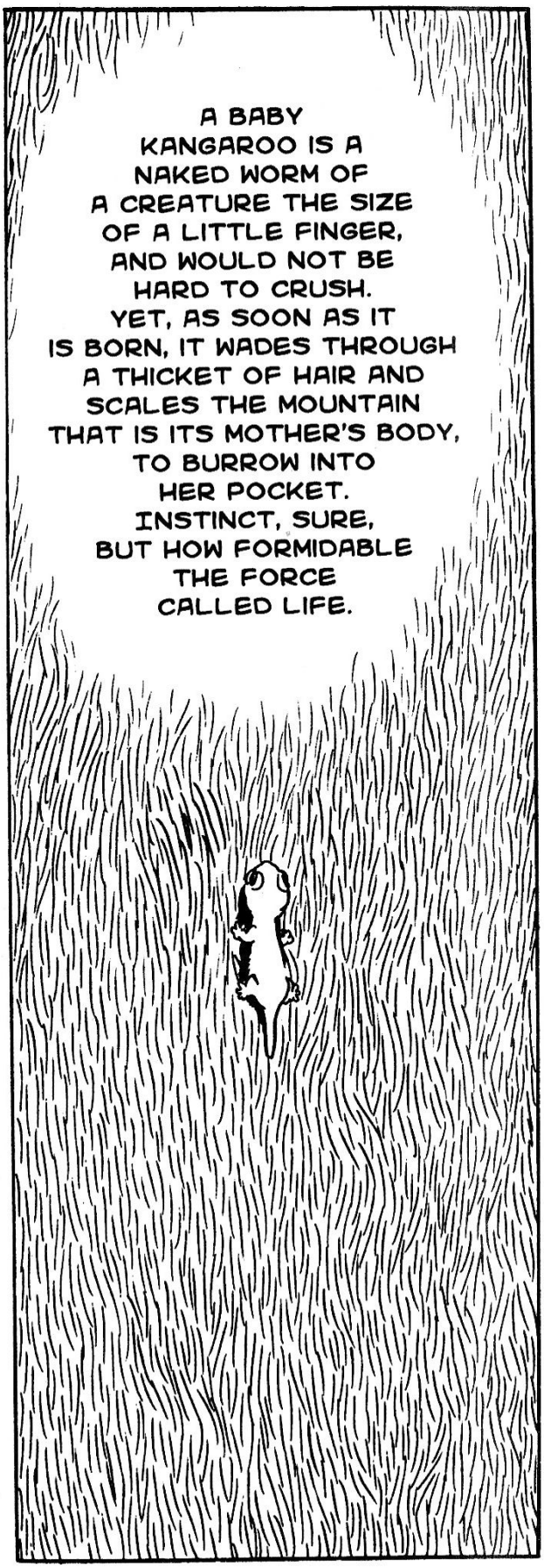
PREPARE FOR SUR-GERY.
ARE YOU...
NO...


WE'LL START BY USING THIS BABY'S CORPSE...


WE'LL TRANS-PLANT ALL ITS LIMBS.
THEN WE'LL SEVER THE RECIPIENT'S COCCYX AND SUTURE ANY DAMAGED ORGANS.

YOUR EFFORTS WILL BE FUTILE.

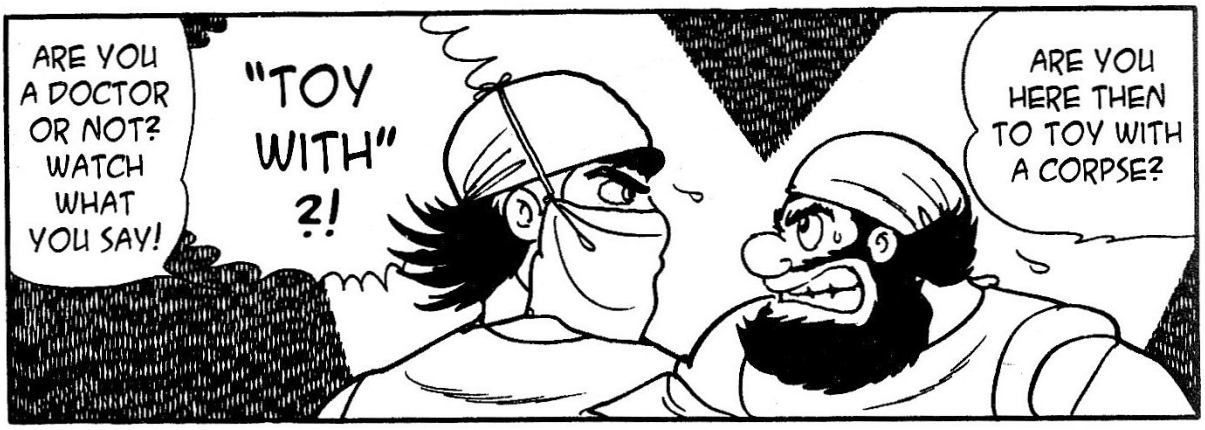
AFTER THAT, WE'LL SUPPLEMENT THE MISSING HALF OF ITS FACE, INSERT A LEFT EYEBALL, AND FORM A MOUTH.


A BABY KANGAROO IS A NAKED WORM OF A CREATURE THE SIZE OF A LITTLE FINGER, AND WOULD NOT BE HARD TO CRUSH. YET, AS SOON AS IT IS BORN, IT WADES THROUGH A THICKET OF HAIR AND SCALES THE MOUNTAIN THAT IS ITS MOTHER'S BODY, TO BURROW INTO HER POCKET. INSTINCT, SURE, BUT HOW FORMIDABLE THE FORCE CALLED LIFE.

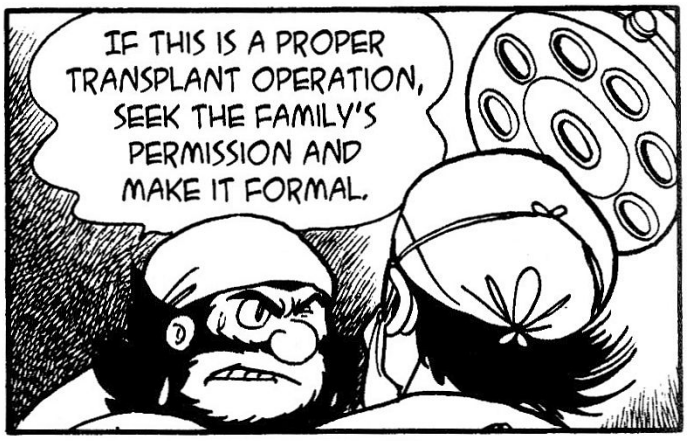
WHY NOT? IT'S VIRTUALLY AUTOPLASTY. THE TISSUE WILL TAKE.
IT CAN'T BE DONE!

I DID, BUT EUTHANASIA WASN'T WHAT I HAD IN MIND.
D-DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE DOCTOR KIRIKO'S ILK?

LET US TRY.

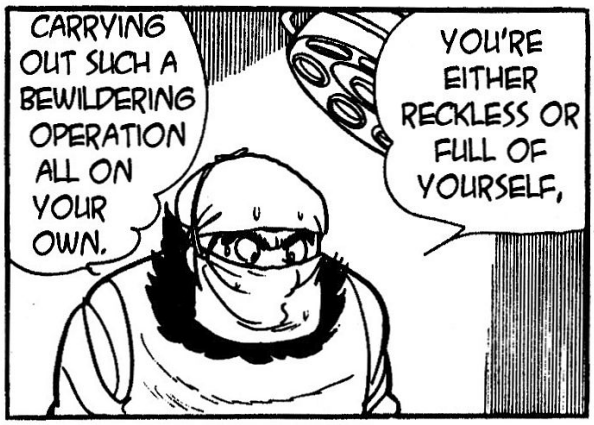

ARE YOU A DOCTOR OR NOT? WATCH WHAT YOU SAY!
"TOY WITH" ?!
ARE YOU HERE THEN TO TOY WITH A CORPSE?

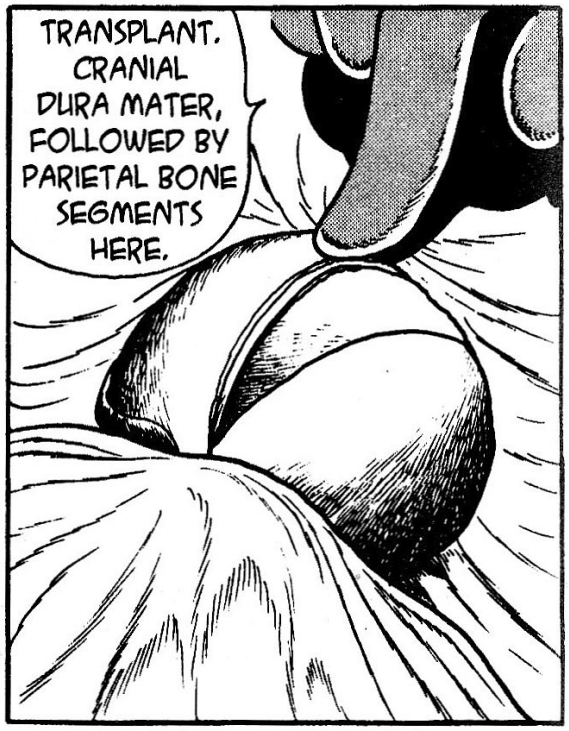
HAVEN'T GOT THE TIME.


IF THIS IS A PROPER TRANSPLANT OPERATION, SEEK THE FAMILY'S PERMISSION AND MAKE IT FORMAL.

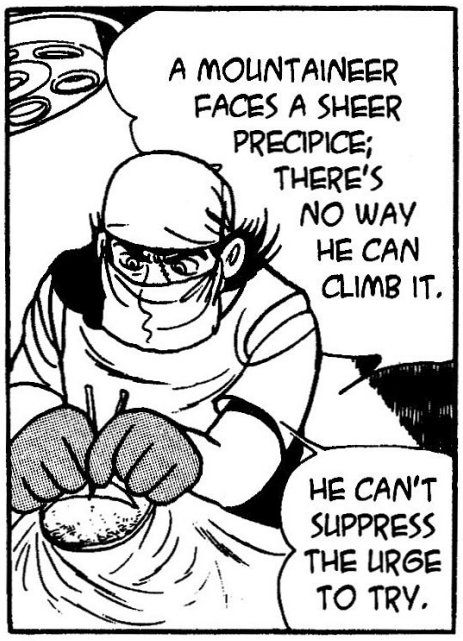
THE TISSUES OF THIS PRECIOUS CORPSE OF OURS WILL DIE AND BECOME USELESS!
IF WE DON'T HURRY,
KRIK

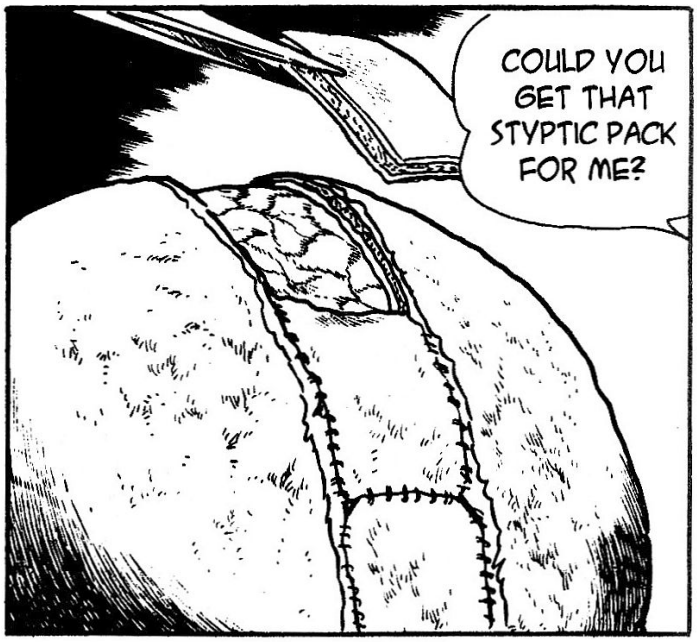
THEN LET ME ASK YOU THIS: WHY ARE YOU CARRYING AROUND SUCH A THING?
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU? IT'S NOT A TOOL FOR MURDER. IT'S AN ULTRASONIC DEVICE. HAVE AN ENGINEER INSPECT IT!
PLEASE, BE OUR GUEST UNTIL YOU'RE CLEARED.
YOU THICK-SKULLED SECURITY FREAK, LET ME OUT OF HERE!
SEXTUPLETS: ONE DEAD
Cardiac Debility
CARE FOR A NEWS-PAPER?

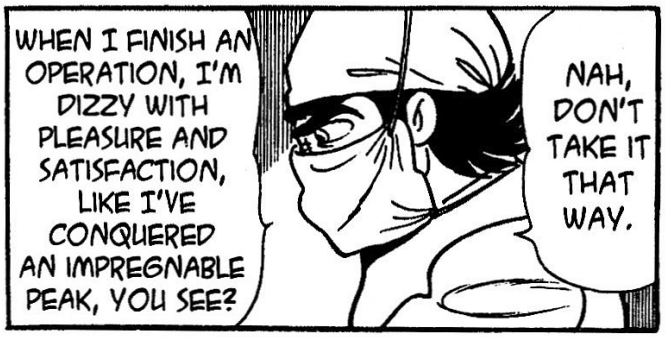

CARRYING OUT SUCH A BEWILDERING OPERATION ALL ON YOUR OWN.
YOU'RE EITHER RECKLESS OR FULL OF YOURSELF,


TRANSPLANT. CRANIAL DURA MATER, FOLLOWED BY PARIETAL BONE SEGMENTS HERE.

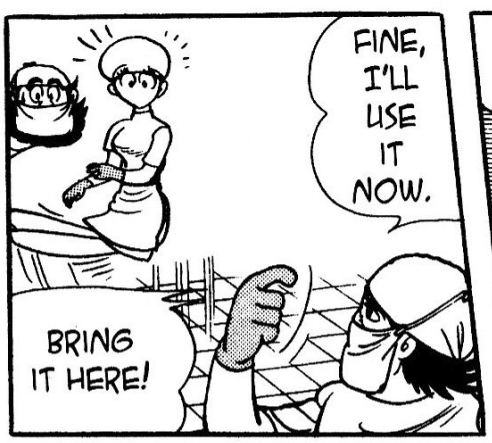
YOU'RE ONE OF A KIND...


A MOUNTAINEER FACES A SHEER PRECIPICE; THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN CLIMB IT.
HE CAN'T SUPPRESS THE URGE TO TRY.


COULD YOU GET THAT STYPTIC PACK FOR ME?


WHEN I FINISH AN OPERATION, I'M DIZZY WITH PLEASURE AND SATISFACTION, LIKE I'VE CONQUERED AN IMPREGNABLE PEAK, YOU SEE?
NAH, DON'T TAKE IT THAT WAY.

MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING?! IS THAT ALL THIS MEANS TO YOU?


FINE, I'LL USE IT NOW.
BRING IT HERE!

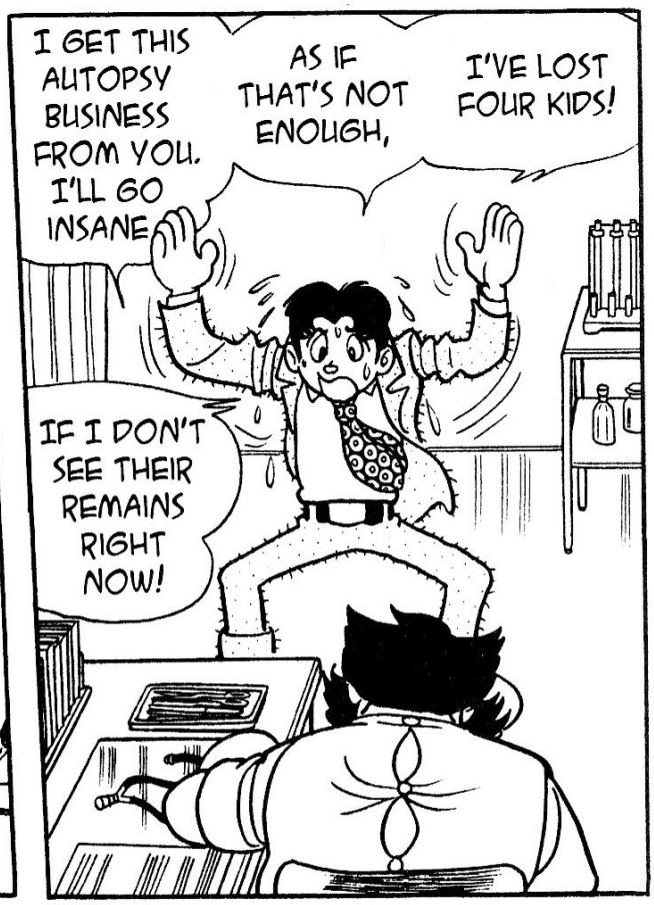
...
I'M SORRY TO INFORM YOU, THE 4TH BABY...

DOCTOR!

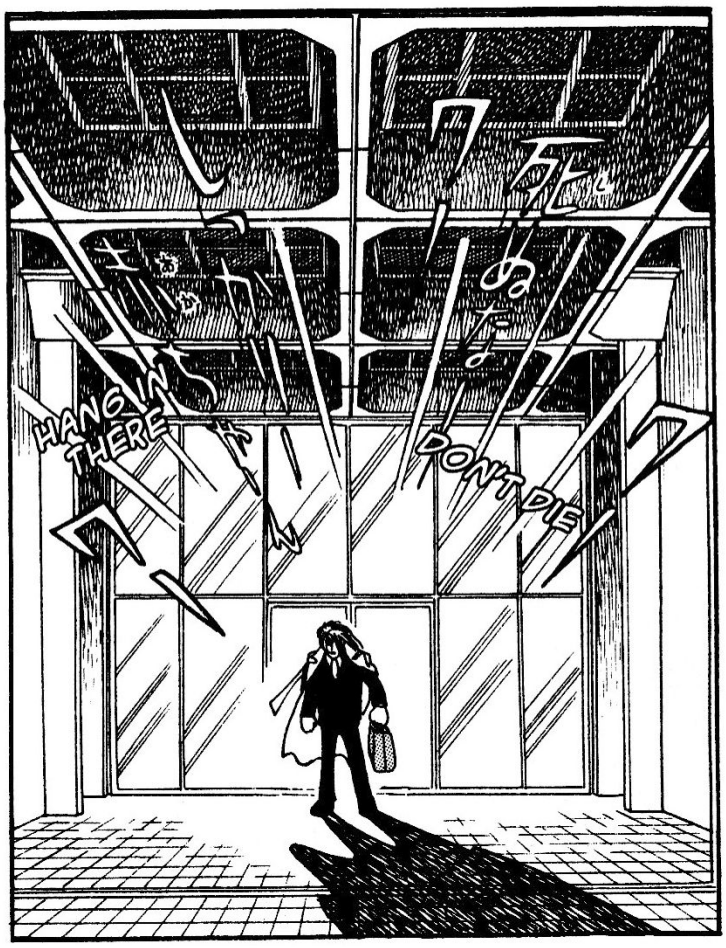
PLEASE TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!
DOCTOR NISCHE!!

WE DID ALL WE COULD, BUT THE CASES WERE BEYOND US.

OKAY, I GET THAT! WHAT I DON'T IS THAT I CAN'T HAVE THEIR REMAINS!
MY WIFE'S CATCHING ON, TOO.


I GET THIS AUTOPSY BUSINESS FROM YOU. I'LL GO INSANE
AS IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH,
I'VE LOST FOUR KIDS!
IF I DON'T SEE THEIR REMAINS RIGHT NOW!

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!
HOLD ON, HERR MELL.
WHAT IF THEY ALL DIE EXCEPT FOR THE MONSTER?
I'LL BE THE LAUGHING STOCK OF ALL EUROPE.
I SWEAR BY GOD!!
MAX MELL, I MAKE THIS PROMISE TO YOU: A BABY OF SOUND BODY WILL SURVIVE!
I WANT MY KIDS' REMAINS. I'LL RAKE THIS HOSPITAL FOR THEM IF I HAVE TO.
A FIFTH SEXTUPLET HAS JUST SUCCUMBED TO CARDIAC DEBILITY. THE LAST ONE REMAINING IS IN GOOD HEALTH.
YEAH, THAT REALLY HELPS...
DON'T DIE! I'M WITH YOU!
HANG IN THERE, BABY!


HANG IN THERE
DON'T DIE

赤ちゃんがんばれ!
死なないで!
LET'S GO BABY!
PLEASE DON'T DIE
RAH
RAH

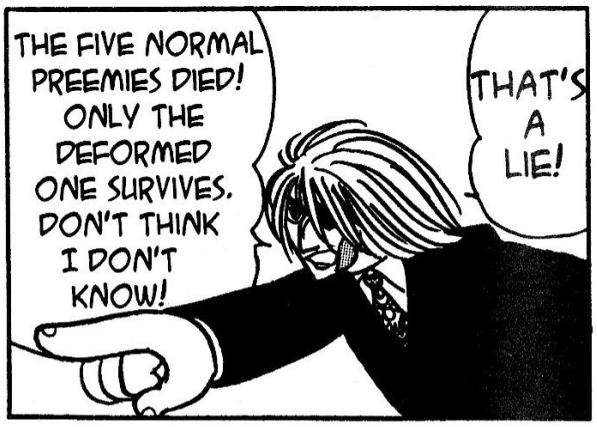
I AM DOCTOR KIRIKO.

NO... IT'S GONE.

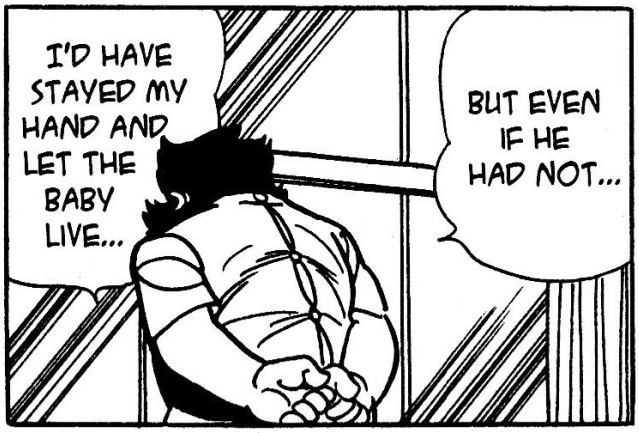
THAT SIXTH BABY IS STILL ALIVE, ISN'T IT?
WHAT IS THIS NOW?

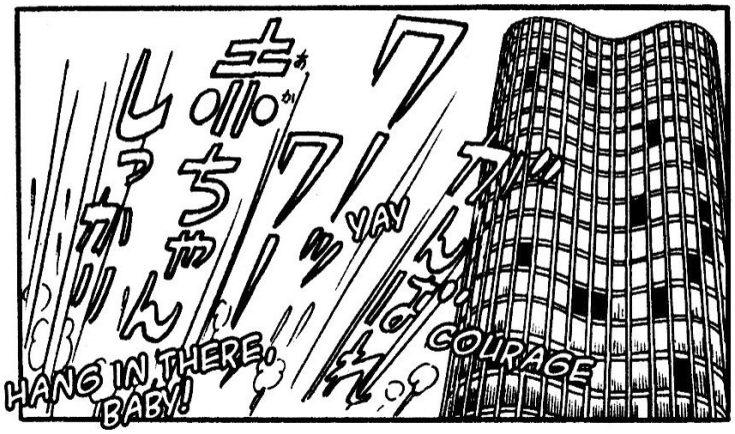
BUT YOU'RE TOO LATE!
THANK YOU FOR COMING.
YOUR PATIENT IS GONE.

THE DEFORMED INFANT TRULY IS NO MORE.
YET IT IS SO.


THE FIVE NORMAL PREEMIES DIED! ONLY THE DEFORMED ONE SURVIVES. DON'T THINK I DON'T KNOW!
THAT'S A LIE!

YES HE DID.
DID BLACK JACK COME TO THIS HOSPITAL?
BLACK JACK!


I'D HAVE STAYED MY HAND AND LET THE BABY LIVE...
BUT EVEN IF HE HAD NOT...


YAY
COURAGE
HANG IN THERE, BABY!

DON'T YOU HEAR THAT CLAMOR TOO?